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8 January 1966

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CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE BULLETIN

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Ceylon: [Leftist opponents of Prime Minister Senanayake may try to spark communal clashes over his government's proposed legislation on Ceylon's language problem.]

[The government coalition is scheduled to introduce legislation today permitting the "reasonable use" of the minority Tamil language in predominantly Tamil areas. The bill is intended only to implement one passed by the previous left-wing government in 1958, but it provides a convenient focal point for communal agitation.]

[Leftist opposition attempts to discredit the nine-month-old pro-Western government have recently centered on an alleged secret pact between Senanayake and the leader of the Federal Party, which represents the Ceylonese Tamils. Although Senanayake has denied the existence of any agreements prejudicial to the interests of the Sinhalese majority, suspicions still linger.]

[Senanayake, who depends on the Federal Party's parliamentary support, would find it hard to retract the proposed legislation. He is said to believe, however, that the leftist opposition will make its first "major punch" at his government over this issue.]

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Congo: The government's military capabilities in the eastern Congo will be improved by the recent arrival of a new batch of South African mercenaries.

Major Peters, Lt. Col. Hoare's successor as commander of the South African mercenary unit, returned from Johannesburg on 2 January with 60 newly recruited former mercenaries. Another 50 are expected later this month.

Over the last month, the South African unit has been largely immobilized as the contracts of its personnel expired. The brunt of the fighting has been carried by a few Congolese units, stiffened by a few men from a French-speaking mercenary group. These have gradually pushed the rebels westward from Lake Tanganyika, but their progress has been slow compared with earlier government successes.

[Nearly all the rebels' Cuban advisers have apparently left the Congo. Some were still alleged to be in western Tanzania in late December, but over 100 apparently have left that country. Those remaining in Tanzania are said to have refused to return to the Congo.]

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NOTES

Chad: [Dissident Muslim bands armed with spears, knives, and, in one case, "Molotov cocktails" have been stepping up their attacks on government security forces in Eastern Chad. The dissidents, some of whom are wearing insignia of military rank, are showing increasing signs of organization and direction. Government troops in the area have been able to hold their own so far, but would be hard pressed if the dissidents should get more arms. President Tombalbaye, who is a Christian, views the Muslims as a serious threat to his regime. He has strengthened the security forces by placing French officers in effective command.]

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USSR-Mongolia: The departure of a high-level Soviet delegation for Mongolia, headed by party leader Brezhnev, is the latest move in Moscow's campaign to counter Chinese influence in Asia and coincides with other current Soviet efforts on the periphery of China. The Shelepin mission has arrived in North Vietnam and could go on to North Korea, and Soviet Premier Kosygin is conducting "mediation" efforts at Tashkent on the Indo-Pakistani dispute. Brezhnev's delegation includes such high Soviet officials as Defense Minister Malinovsky, First Deputy Premier Mazurov, and Foreign Minister Gromyko.

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